

ARTICLES

The Sudan-born in Australia: a Statistical Profile

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This article looks at the characteristics of the Sudan-born and compares the different waves of Sudanese flows to Australia. The Sudan-born are one of the fastest growing groups in Australia, numbering 1259 in 1991, rising to 2397 in 1996. By 2001, numbers had reached 4900. Sudan-born arrivals accelerated during the intercensal period 2001-06 (see Figure 1), with the population in Australia almost quadrupling to 19,049 in 2006.¹ This acceleration was due to Australian government policy changes which resulted in entrants from Africa comprising a majority of the Humanitarian Program intake from 2003-04 to 2006-07, with the Sudanese dominating this flow.

Before 2001, the Sudan-born were not primarily refugees but included a number of skilled migrants. Prior to 1996, the majority did not have Sudanese ancestry and many were Coptic Orthodox Christians who had left Sudan because of the persecution of non-Muslims, especially after the implementation of Sharia law in 1983.² From 2001, however, almost all arrivals were part of the Humanitarian Program. These were divided into two categories: refugees who were granted visas solely on humanitarian grounds, and the majority who arrived under the Special Humanitarian Program (SHP), where entrants were sponsored and received some level of support from their sponsors.³

This profile is largely based on the primary analysis of two sources: the 2006 Australian Census using the Tablebuilder software, and the Settlement Reporting Facility of the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC). To bridge the gap from the 2006 Census date of 8th

¹ David Lucas, "Africans in the Australian Census," *The Australasian Review of African Studies*, 29:1&2 (2008): 111.

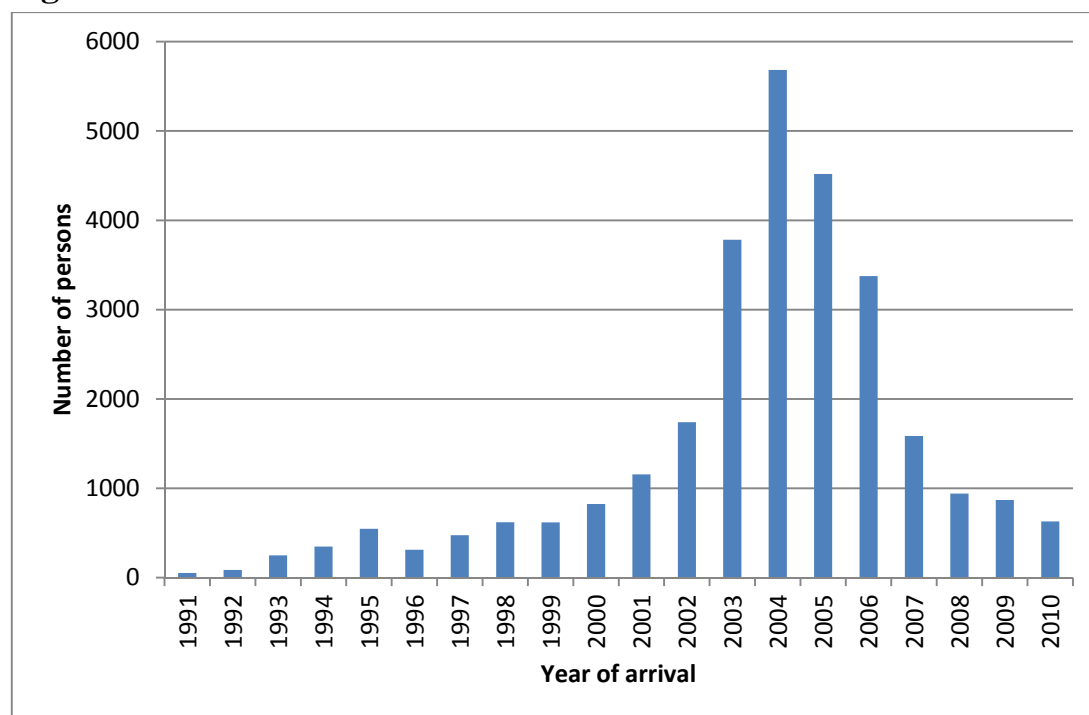
² Rogaia Mustafa Abusharaf, *Wanderings* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2002), 86.

³ Department of Immigration and Citizenship, *Sudanese Community Profile* (Canberra, 2007), 3.

August, 2006, and the end of 2010, a particular focus of the DIAC Settlement Database is on the 5,531 who arrived in Australia between August 1st, 2006 and 31st December, 2010. Unfortunately not all items were mandatory for this database and for these the number of cases is reduced to 4,245.

Figure 1 is based upon the Settlement Database, which gives higher figures for Sudan-born arrivals during each year in 1991-2006 than does the number enumerated by year of arrival in the 2006 Census. Possible explanations for the excess might include mortality, return migration or emigration, and under-enumeration of the Sudan-born in the 2006 Census. However, the overall pattern is similar, with a peak of Sudan-born arrivals in 2004.

Figure 1. Sudan-born arrivals in Australia



Source: Department of Immigration and Citizenship Settlement Database.

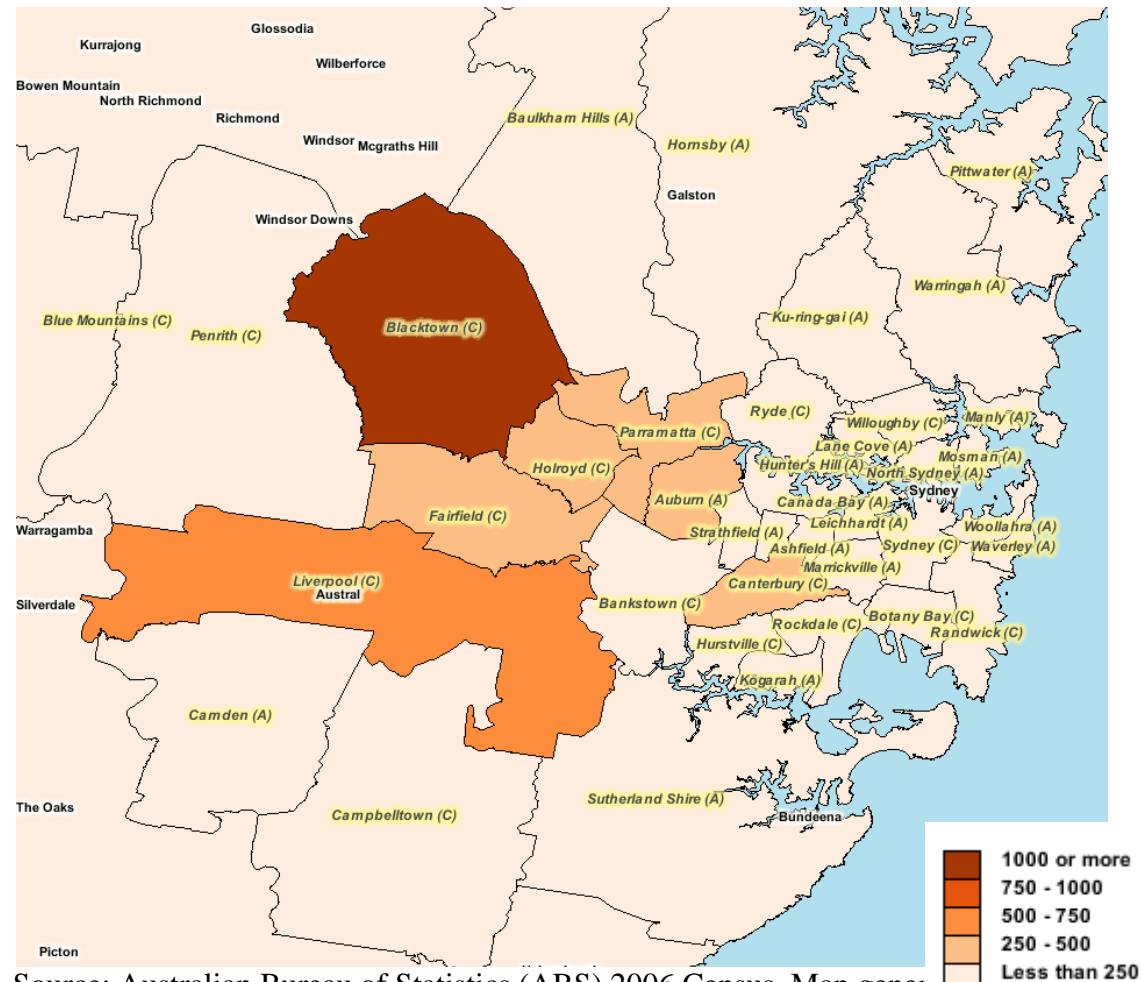
Extracted on 8 March 2011.

Note: Includes both persons who arrived as migrants and persons who arrived as temporary entrants and were later granted permanent resident status onshore.

Figure 2 demonstrates that in New South Wales, several of the local governance areas (LGAs) are contiguous in Western Sydney. In contrast, in the Melbourne conurbation there are two concentrations: Casey and Dandenong are to the east and Brimbank and Maribyrnong to the west. The Index of Relative Socio-economic Disadvantage produced by the Australian Bureau of Statistics shows that within New South Wales,

Auburn and Fairfield are in the most disadvantaged category while the same is true within Victoria for Greater Dandenong, Brimbank and Maribyrnong.⁴

Figure 2. Sudan-born in Western Sydney



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) 2006 Census. Map generated by ABS TableBuilder.

In the 2006 Census, about six out of every ten of the Sudan-born lived in major urban centers in Victoria or New South Wales, as shown in Table 1. The Settlement Database shows that from August, 2006, to December, 2010, 31.4% of the 5,528 arrivals went to Victoria, and 21.4% to New South Wales, while Western Australia (16.3%) moves into third spot ahead of Queensland (14.9%). In a study of the settlement patterns of African refugees in South East Queensland, Harte et al. suggest that after

⁴ Australian Bureau of Statistics, "Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas: Local Government Area (LGA) Index of Relative Socio economic Disadvantage. Data Cube 2033.0.55.001", 2006, www.abs.gov.au (accessed 7 March, 2011).

being initially placed in short-term accommodation, many undergo secondary migration to rebuild social and ethnic networks elsewhere within the State.⁵ Table 2 below shows the main concentrations of the Sudan-born in 2006.

Table 1. Distribution of Sudan-born by State, 2006 (%)

State	Location		Total
	Major Urban	Other	
Victoria	31.4	1.2	32.6
New South Wales	29.5	1.8	31.4
Western Australia	10.2	0.4	10.6
Queensland	10.0	2.6	12.6
South Australia	7.6	0.1	7.7
Tasmania	1.5	1.3	2.8
Australian Capital Territory	1.2	0.0	1.2
Northern Territory	0.0	1.1	1.1
Total	91.4	8.6	100
N=	17,387	1,661	19,049

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) 2006 Census,
Tables generated using ABS TableBuilder.

Table 2. Geographic distribution of Sudan-born, 2006, Top 20 LGAs

State	Local Government Areas	N=
New South Wales	Blacktown	1970
Victoria	Greater Dandenong	1656
Queensland	Brisbane	1520
Victoria	Brimbank	1223
Western Australia	Stirling	1006
New South Wales	Liverpool	508
Victoria	Casey	440
New South Wales	Holroyd	435
Queensland	Toowoomba	429
Victoria	Maribyrnong	392
New South Wales	Auburn	384
South Australia	Port Adelaide Enfield	368
New South Wales	Parramatta	321
New South Wales	Canterbury	320
New South Wales	Fairfield	319
Western Australia	Wanneroo	288
New South Wales	Newcastle	260
South Australia	Charles Sturt	260
Australian Capital Territory	ACT	232
Victoria	Moonee Valley (C)	224

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) 2006 Census

⁵ Wendy Harte, Iraphne Childs and Peter Hastings, "Settlement patterns of African refugee communities in Queensland," *Australian Geographer* 40:1 (2009): 51-67.

For the Sudan-born in 2006, there are 10,320 males and 8731 females, giving a sex ratio of 118 males per 100 females (see Table 8 below). As shown in Table 3, the Sudan-born have a young age structure, and this is even more apparent for those with Sudanese ancestry because of births after arrival in Australia. More details of the numbers in each five-year age group are given in Table 8.

For the ancestry variable, one or two responses were permitted so a person could have a sole ancestry or a multiple ancestry. However, as shown by Khoo and Lucas using the 2001 Census, persons born in the Horn of Africa predominantly gave only one answer, so in 2006 only 7% of those reporting Sudanese ancestry gave more than one answer.⁶ Thus the analysis of ancestry has been simplified by using only the first recorded answer.

Table 3. Sudan-born and persons with Sudanese Ancestry by Age Group, 2006 (%)

Age Group (years)	Sudan- born (%)	Sudanese ancestry (%)
0-14	26.6	41.5
15-24	24.4	20.6
25-34	21.3	18.5
35-44	15.0	12.2
45-54	7.2	4.8
55-64	3.1	1.6
65 and over	2.4	1.0
Total	100.0	100.0
N=	19,049	18,119

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) 2006 Census.

Note: Sudanese* includes Dinka and Nuer.

In all Tables, except Table 4, Dinka and Nuer ancestries are included in the national category, Sudanese. Table 4 shows that for the 18,119 with Sudanese ancestry, only 72% were born in Sudan, while 11% were born in the major countries bordering Sudan which are destinations for the main flows of refugees. As indicated by DIAC many entrants had been living in refugee camps in Kenya, Ethiopia and Northern Uganda, or were from northern Sudan and had arrived in Australia via Cairo.⁷

⁶ Siew-Ean Khoo and David Lucas, *Australians' Ancestries* (cat. no 2054.0) (Canberra: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2004a), 23.

⁷ Department of Immigration and Citizenship, 2007, 9.

Table 4. Sudanese, Dinka and Nuer Ancestry by Country of Birth, 2006 (%)

Country of Birth	Ancestry			Total	N=
	Sudanese	Dinka	Nuer		
Sudan	72.2	66.8	64.0	71.7	13,000
Egypt	4.5	3.9	1.3	4.4	794
Other North Africa & Middle East	0.8	0.9	0.0	0.8	153
Kenya	4.1	7.6	4.8	4.3	782
Uganda	1.4	0.4	0.0	1.3	243
Ethiopia	0.8	0.8	1.8	0.8	49
Other Africa	1.1	1.5	0.0	1.1	155
Australia	8.4	8.5	15.4	8.5	1,536
Other	2.0	2.6	2.6	2.0	372
Not stated	5.5	8.5	10.1	5.7	1,035
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	18,119
N=	16,748	1,143	228	18,119	

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) 2006 Census.

Table 5 confirms the finding of Figure 1, that the peak period for the arrival of Sudan-born is from 2003 and 2006, allowing for the fact that 2006 only includes the seven months of the year prior to the Census in August. Table 5 also shows changes in the composition of the Sudan-born by ancestry. North Africa and the Middle East account for a substantial but variable proportion of Sudan-born up until 2000 whereas after 2000 over 70% of Sudan-born arrivals gave Sudanese as their ancestry.

Table 6 indicates that for the period up to 2001, religion is related to ancestry for those reporting Egyptian (Coptic Orthodox Church) or Ethiopian (Ethiopian Orthodox) as their first ancestry in the 2006 Australian Census. It also shows an increasing proportion of Catholics and Anglicans over time. This may be partly due to church groups sponsoring migrants. For the 4,383 cases in the Settlement Database for the period 1st August, 2006, to 31st December, 2010, where a religion is specified, one eighth (12.5%) are Muslims, while the remainder are Christians, highly concentrated in the 'Christian Not Further Defined' category. Only two persons had no religion. Since only 2% of persons with Sudanese ancestry reported 'no religion' in the 2001 Census⁸ it is unsurprising that Table 6 also gives a low figure.

⁸ Siew-Ean Khoo and David Lucas, *Australians' Ancestries. Corrigendum (cat. no 2054.0)* (Canberra: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2004b), 97.

Table 5. Sudan-born by Ancestry and Year of Arrival, 2006 (%)

Year of Arrival	Sudanese*	Other North Africa & Middle East	Other African	Ancestry Australian	Other	Total**	N=
Before 1996	31.9	41.7	9.1	3.1	14.2	100.0	1,865
1996	51.6	26.3	14.7	3.2	4.2	100.0	312
1997	44.5	34.8	10.6	3.8	6.3	100.0	236
1998	68.8	11.4	14.7	2.8	2.3	100.0	394
1999	52.2	21.7	11.9	3.2	7.1	100.0	438
2000	67.6	11.8	14.6	3.4	2.7	100.0	527
2001	71.7	7.9	14.6	2.4	3.4	100.0	756
2002	79.5	2.7	10.7	2.1	5.1	100.0	1,202
2003	83.3	1.8	10.8	1.1	3.0	100.0	2,574
2004	80.3	2.5	11.5	1.4	4.3	100.0	3,950
2005	86.2	3.1	7.3	0.9	2.5	100.0	3,266
2006	78.9	4.1	14.3	0.6	2.1	100.0	1,277
Total	73.7	9.1	10.9	1.7	4.7	100.0	16,571
N=	12,259	1,794	1,450	278	790	16,571	

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) 2006 Census.

Notes: Sudanese* includes Dinka and Nuer. Total** excludes 2,478 whose ancestry were not stated.

Table 6. Sudan-born by Religion and Year of Arrival, 2006 (%)

Year of arrival	Before 1996 (%)	1996 to 2001 (%)	Sudan 2002 to 2006 (%)	All Years (%)	N=
Religion					
Catholic	22.3	24.3	39.3	35.5	6,420
Anglican Church of Australia	2.3	10.5	23.3	18.9	3,414
Coptic Orthodox Church	47.8	26.8	1.0	10.2	1,841
Greek & Eastern Orthodox	6.5	4.0	1.4	2.3	424
Ethiopian Orthodox Church	1.6	0.7	1.1	1.1	196
Other Christian	7.1	15.7	16.1	15.7	2,849
Islam	5.2	14.5	13.9	13.0	2,351
No Religion	1.6	0.2	0.3	0.4	77
Not Stated	1.0	1.8	2.4	2.1	433
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	18,019
*N=	*1,960	2,878	*13,181	18,019	

Note: *N includes 4 Buddhists (2002 to 2006) and 3 Hindus (before 1996)

Language use, which is the topic of Table 7, is quite complicated. First, the Census question refers to language spoken at home, and many of the Sudan-born are multilingual, using different lingua francas in different

contexts. Second, the variety of languages is considerable, with 1,307 persons who speak African Languages collapsed into the ‘not elsewhere classified (nec)’ or ‘not further defined (nfd)’ categories. Third, although Arabic is an official language of Sudan, the Arabic language category may included speakers of Juba Arabic which is used mainly in southern Sudan and may be unintelligible to other Arabic speakers.⁹

Table 7. Sudan-born by Language Spoken at Home and Year of Arrival, 2006 (%)

Language spoken at home	Year of arrival			N=
	Before 1996	1996 to 2001	2002 to 2006	
Arabic	73.1	65.8	45.3	9,301
Dinka	0.9	10.5	29.8	4,250
African Languages, nec	0.3	5.5	6.3	995
English	14.7	3.4	2.9	768
Nuer	0.7	4.7	4.1	685
Acholi	0.0	1.9	2.0	314
African Languages, nfd	0.9	1.4	1.9	312
Tigrinya	2.0	1.5	1.1	231
Amharic	0.8	0.3	0.8	133
Greek	3.0	0.5	0.0	75
Swahili	0.0	0.2	0.5	67
Shilluk	0.0	0.4	0.2	43
Not stated	0.4	1.1	2.1	312
Inadequately described	3.3	2.7	3.0	533
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	18,019

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) 2006 Census.

Data on language from the Settlement Database¹⁰ for the period 1st August, 2006, to 31st December, 2010, gives more information than the Census, but specific languages are only given in 3944 out of 5531 cases. Arabic remains the major language (43%), but is surpassed by the seven specified Sudanese languages (47%), notably Dinka, but also, in order of size including Acholi, Nuer, Madi, Bari, Kuku and Moro. It is not known whether speakers from the smaller groups experience additional language problems in Australia. The same can be said about the few speakers of Kakwa which is a Congolese language. Both Table 7 and the Settlement database indicate the presence of Tigrinya and Amharic speakers. These might include refugees from Eritrea and Ethiopia as a result of war and civil conflict.

⁹ Department of Immigration and Citizenship, 2007, 16.

¹⁰ Department of Immigration and Citizenship, *Settlement Database*. <http://www.immi.gov.au/settlement> (accessed 8 March 2011).

Table 8(a). Sudan-born Males by Proficiency in Spoken English, 2006 (%)

	Well or Very well	Not well or Not at all	Speaks English at home	Not stated	Total	N=
Age						
0-4 years	21.1	67.2	2.4	9.3	100.0	375
5-9 years	56.3	34.3	4.0	5.4	100.0	1,068
10-14 years	71.2	20.6	4.5	3.7	100.0	1,254
15-19 years	79.0	11.9	5.2	3.9	100.0	1,341
20-24 years	80.5	9.3	5.9	4.3	100.0	1,241
25-29 years	76.5	15.8	4.3	3.4	100.0	1,082
30-34 years	70.6	23.5	2.5	3.5	100.0	1,070
35-39 years	68.3	25.8	3.2	2.7	100.0	824
40-44 years	72.5	21.3	4.3	1.9	100.0	742
45-49 years	65.5	26.5	6.8	1.2	100.0	501
50-54 years	67.3	20.0	10.8	1.9	100.0	315
55-59 years	71.8	16.4	11.9	0.0	100.0	177
60-64 years	67.5	19.2	10.8	2.5	100.0	120
65 and over	67.6	21.0	10.0	1.4	100.0	210
Total	69.8	21.7	4.9	3.6	100.0	10,320

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) 2006 Census.

Table 8(b). Sudan-born Females by Proficiency in Spoken English, 2006 (%)

	Well or Very well	Not well or Not at all	Speaks English at home	Not stated	Total	N=
Age						
0-4 years	19.6	70.9	2.0	7.4	100.0	296
5-9 years	59.6	32.0	3.6	4.7	100.0	990
10-14 years	70.4	20.3	4.3	5.0	100.0	1,083
15-19 years	76.9	15.8	3.7	3.7	100.0	1,117
20-24 years	61.3	33.1	2.6	3.0	100.0	953
25-29 years	45.7	49.2	2.4	2.7	100.0	955
30-34 years	41.7	53.0	2.5	2.8	100.0	957
35-39 years	47.5	47.1	2.2	3.2	100.0	724
40-44 years	49.9	43.7	4.9	1.6	100.0	577
45-49 years	52.4	40.8	5.5	1.3	100.0	311
50-54 years	56.2	33.5	9.0	1.3	100.0	233
55-59 years	52.2	36.0	9.3	2.5	100.0	161
60-64 years	53.9	35.9	6.3	3.9	100.0	128
65 and over	44.3	35.9	6.3	2.0	100.0	246
Total	55.8	37.0	3.7	3.4	100.0	8,731

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) 2006 Census.

Table 9(a). Sudan-born Adult Males by Educational Attainment and Qualifications

Age (years)	Year 9 to 12 (%)	Year 8 or below (%)	Did not go to school (%)	Not stated (%)	Total (%)	With Post School Qualifications (%)
15-19	74.1	12.5	1.3	12.1	100.0	2.2
20-24	81.0	4.7	1.8	12.6	100.0	12.8
25-29	76.7	6.1	3.1	14.1	100.0	25.1
30-34	74.6	10.0	4.3	11.1	100.0	34.0
35-39	71.1	9.6	5.1	14.2	100.0	36.3
40-44	74.1	8.2	4.2	13.5	100.0	46.2
45-49	73.0	7.0	8.0	12.0	100.0	46.8
50-54	73.6	9.9	3.5	13.1	100.0	50.3
55-59	75.8	7.3	1.7	15.2	100.0	47.2
60-64	79.7	2.5	3.4	14.4	100.0	52.5
65 and over	82.5	7.1	1.4	9.0	100.0	26.5
Total	75.6	8.4	3.3	12.7	100.0	27.0

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) 2006 Census.

Table 9(b). Sudan-born Adult Females by Educational Attainment and Qualifications

Age (Years)	Year 9 to 12 (%)	Year 8 or below (%)	Did not go to school (%)	Not stated (%)	Total (%)	With Post School Qualifications (%)
15-19	72.0	13.1	2.4	12.5	100.0	3.4
20-24	61.2	18.7	6.8	13.2	100.0	14.5
25-29	49.2	22.2	15.3	13.3	100.0	19.3
30-34	45.3	20.3	20.7	13.8	100.0	20.4
35-39	50.1	18.4	17.8	13.7	100.0	25.4
40-44	55.5	11.4	18.8	14.3	100.0	27.1
45-49	61.5	9.6	16.9	12.1	100.0	32.2
50-54	67.1	5.2	16.9	10.8	100.0	28.1
55-59	63.2	8.0	17.8	11.0	100.0	27.6
60-64	63.3	9.4	15.6	11.7	100.0	27.3
65 and over	59.8	11.4	15.9	13.0	100.0	8.1
Total	57.4	16.1	13.4	13.1	100.0	18.2

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) 2006 Census.

Table 10(a). Sudan-born Adult Males by Labour Force Status

Age Group (Years)	Employed (no.)	Unemployed (no.)	Not in the labour force (no.)	N=	UR (%)	LFPR (%)
15-19	129	88	1,073	1,290	40.6	16.8
20-24	414	193	579	1,186	31.8	51.2
25-29	461	174	385	1,020	27.4	62.3
30-34	467	162	383	1,012	25.8	62.2
35-39	374	141	268	783	27.4	65.8
40-44	346	113	247	706	24.6	65.0
45-49	237	86	164	487	26.6	66.3
50-54	152	47	113	312	23.6	63.8
55-59	90	18	62	170	16.7	63.5
60-64	42	15	58	115	26.3	49.6
65 and over	27	3	170	200	10.0	15.0
Total	2,739	1,040	3,502	7,281	27.5	51.9

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) 2006 Census.

Table 10(b). Sudan-born Adult Females by Labour Force Status

Age Group (Years)	Employed	Unemployed	Not in the labour force	N=	UR (%)	LFPR (%)
15-19	74	61	941	1,076	45.2	12.5
20-24	175	101	628	904	36.6	30.5
25-29	151	73	668	892	32.6	25.1
30-34	134	90	690	914	40.2	24.5
35-39	131	61	490	682	31.8	28.2
40-44	166	51	333	550	23.5	39.5
45-49	112	23	166	301	17.0	44.9
50-54	73	16	136	225	18.0	39.6
55-59	47	3	108	158	6.0	31.6
60-64	27	4	91	122	12.9	25.4
65 and over	16	0	215	231	0.0	6.9
Total	1,106	483	4,466	6,055	30.4	26.2

Source: Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) 2006 Census.

* Note: UR = Unemployment rate = $\frac{\text{Number unemployed} \times 100}{\text{Number in labour force}}$

LFPR = labour force participation rate = $\frac{\text{Number employed} + \text{unemployed} \times 100}{N}$

Table 8 indicates a substantial disparity in English proficiency by gender, with 22% of males and 37% of females who either do not speak English well or not at all. For males aged 15-34 and 55-64, these proportions fall below 20%, but for females this is only true for those aged 15-19.

The importance of English proficiency has long been recognized in Australia. For example, the 1991 Census showed that “Poor English speakers were disproportionately represented among the unemployed and those not in the labour force.”¹¹

Table 9 again shows an educational gender gap for the Sudan-born: around 12% of males and 30% of females either did not go to school or had finished year 8 or below. The percentage of ‘Not Stated’ is around 13% for both males and females: possibly this category includes many with little education. For females those aged 15-19 are more likely to have reached year 9 or above, but for both males and females those aged 15-19 who have not progressed beyond Year 8 must be of concern. In the general Australian population between 2001 and 2010, women were more likely to have attained Year 12 than men. Table 9 suggests that the reverse is true for Sudan-born men and women.

The final column of Table 9 shows the proportion of each age group that has attained any sort of qualification (vocational, trade, tertiary) after leaving school. This suggests a dichotomy amongst the Sudan-born: many have qualifications while many have inadequate or no schooling. One recurring complaint by Africans is that their qualifications gained overseas are not recognized in Australia. In a survey of 149 Africans in Melbourne in the late 1980s, around half stated that this had been a problem. The lack of recognition of educational qualifications affected access by Africans to education and employment.¹² According to Reiner, ‘A lack of local experience and lack of recognition of overseas qualifications are additional barriers that African refugees face in striking feature of Table 10 is the large number not in the labour force, which may in part be due to the recency of arrival, recent arrivals undertaking various forms of training, and to discouraged workers who feel that they will never get a job. Reiner has noted that refugees of all nationalities

¹¹ Bureau of Immigration, Multicultural and Population Research, *English Proficiency and Immigrant Groups* (Canberra, 1996), 1.

¹² Trevor Batrouney, *Selected African Communities in Melbourne* (Canberra: Bureau of Immigration Research, 1991), 65.

have unemployment rates higher than for independent migrants or the national population.¹³

Conclusion

The data show that the Sudan-born can be divided by date of arrival, with the humanitarian arrivals after 2001 being dominated by Christians of Sudanese ancestry. For this group the data does not reveal much about the criteria used in selecting those to come to Australia; they suggest, however, that in terms of key characteristics such as education and labour force participation, these recent arrivals need assistance to meet the challenges of settlement in Australia.

In 2007, the then Minister for Immigration and Citizenship, Kevin Andrews cut back on the number of Africans admitted under the humanitarian program, stating that some Africans were ‘unable to settle and adjust into the Australian way of life’.¹⁴ At the same time he recognised the importance of English and other skills when he increased funding for the settlement program overall. The numbers of second generation Sudanese in Australia are small but will increase over time. Although first generation Sudanese have low labour force participation, it is expected that those who have arrived at a young age will benefit from the opportunities of the Australian education system. Further, in his study of refugees from all source countries, Hugo concludes that ‘the second generation has much higher levels of labour force engagement than the first generation...’.¹⁵

There is room for improvement in the data. For example, the Census planners should make more efforts with the Language questions, and all questions for the Settlement Database should be mandatory. The 2010 report on African Australians by the Human Rights Commission¹⁶ shows the persistence of problems regarding English proficiency, education, qualifications, and employment but unfortunately the report avoids discussing different views and needs of specific communities. Therefore,

¹³ Reiner, 25.

¹⁴ Kevin Andrews, “Sudanese Settlement Issues”, transcript of interview with Martin King on 27 April 2011, <http://kevinandrews.com.au/media/transcript/drive-martin-king-27-04-2011>(accessed 23 June 2011).

¹⁵ Graeme Hugo, *Economic, Social and Civic Contributions of First and Second Generation Humanitarian Entrants* (Canberra, May 2011), <http://www.immi.gov.au/media/publications/research/pdf/economic-social-civic-contributions-about-the-research2011.pdf>, xxiii.

¹⁶ Australian Human Rights Commission, 2010.

in future reporting, the views and needs of specific communities should be discussed.

As the Sudanese are a young and fast-growing community, the longer-term settlement outcomes for both the first generation and their Australia-born children are not yet known. Improved data collection systems would assist future research in this area. Provided the challenges can be met, Sudanese Australians, like many immigrant groups before them, can be expected to make valuable social and economic contributions to the wider Australian society.

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